

Minutes of...Meeting to Discuss Policy Council

Details

Date: June 27, 2007

Time: noon

Place: County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., 5th Floor Citrus Room, San Bernardino

Attendees

- DeAnna Avey-Motikeit, Department of Children's Services
 - Karen Bell, District Attorney – Juvenile Division
 - Richard Burgess, Department of Behavioral Health – TAY
 - Jennifer Cannady, Public Defender
 - Amy Cousineau, Children's Network
 - Rosa Gomez, Department of Behavioral Health
 - Josie Gonzales, 5th District Supervisor
 - Ron Griffin, Preschool Services Department
 - Linda Haugan, Human Services Administration
 - Margaret Hill, County Superintendent of Schools
 - Richard Jarvis, First 5 San Bernardino
 - Steve Kovensky, Fontana Sheriff's Station
 - Briana Lane, CAO – Board of Supervisors
 - Dave Larsen, Community Development & Housing
 - Honorable James McGuire, Juvenile Court
 - Stephen Morales, Department of Behavioral Health – TAY
 - Kent Paxton, Children's Network
 - Lisha Smith, 5th District Board of Supervisors
 - Rebecca Stafford, Children's Fund
 - Greg Zerovnik, County Library Administration
 - Michael Martinez, District Attorney's Office
 - Claudia Spencer, Public Health
 - Mayor Pat Morris, San Bernardino City
 - Glen Baude, San Bernardino City
 - Tammy Williams, Children's Network
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Meeting purpose

Judge McGuire welcomed everyone and self-introductions were made. A motion was made to approve the amended agenda as submitted. There are no minutes from the last meeting as Tammy was out, and the tape died.

Topics discussed

The table below identifies the topics discussed in the meeting and the person who led each discussion.

Topic	Decision
Welcome and Introductions	McGuire
Approval of Agenda	McGuire
Approval of May 2007 Minutes	McGuire
Operation Phoenix Expansion Discussion	Mayor Morris, Supervisor Gonzales, Kent Paxton
Other	All
Public Comment	All

**Key points:
Operation
Phoenix
Expansion
Discussion**

The following highlights were given:

- Kent stated today's meeting is about Operation Phoenix Expansion so Supervisor Gonzales and Mayor Morris were invited to speak.
- Kent stated Operation Phoenix has had great success with 38% reduction in crime, thanks to the terrific partnership between the city and county.
- Kent is hopeful with the limited resources from the County that Operation Phoenix can be expanded to five other areas of the city.
- Mayor Morris thanked all the colleagues for coming to the aid of the city in the strategy for public safety, intervention, suppression, and prevention. In this twenty-block area, crime is down 38% and in the year before the same area had six homicides. According to a survey conducted there have been very positive affirmations from the residents.
- Mayor Morris mentioned Kent from the county and Glen Baude from his staff has been the lead for Operation Phoenix.
- Some positive results from the neighborhood survey were; blight is being cleaned up, safer to walk and shop, not hear so many gunshots, more lights in the area, and children have a place to go to.
- Last fall a sales tax was passed with support from the community. This Measure Z income is primary to be spent on increasing the police force, but some of the funding is planned to be spent on the Operation Phoenix project.
- Mayor Morris mentioned that there has been a problem with the efforts of suppressing gangs in the city for the last twenty-five years. There is a forty-five million dollars initiative from the governor, which is based on the Operation Phoenix model.
- Next week a ten-person team is coming from the federal government to look at crime issues in San Bernardino such as suppression efforts with gang bangers, etc. Mayor Morris mentioned that you cannot just look at suppression, but must look at long-term risks to diminish violence in the community.
- Supervisor Gonzales stated county and city partners joined together as a partnership to identify common negatives in San Bernardino City. The purpose was to go further and deeper into the root of the problems in order to develop solutions. The efforts were started with the twenty-block area, but keeping in mind that crime and homelessness is transitional. She mentioned that in her position she wears many hats such as the chairperson on the First 5 Commission, so she is interested in actions positive and negative affecting the zero to five populations.
- Supervisor Gonzales mentioned that there must be a focus on economic development at the city and county levels, because if there is a failure there will be a negative ripple effect no matter where you live.
- Supervisor Gonzales talked about the new San Bernardino County Government Campus is a good example of the County working with San Bernardino City. Also, the new 210 freeway will be another economic ...

boon to the community in attracting economic growth.

- Supervisor Gonzales spoke also about the 215-freeway expansion, along with Measure I funding are a more example of great opportunities.
 - Supervisor Gonzales mentioned that this week a group called the Urban Land Institute is meeting about issues in this county that could eventually bring more funding and an increased customer base to the area.
 - Supervisor Gonzales mentioned she and Mayor Morris have many things to focus on their desk, but they have decided that Operation Phoenix is a very worthwhile endeavor as a prescription to make the community healthy. In fact with the partnership and success, there will less costs for adults having to go in rehabilitation, more positive outcomes for the zero to five population, more attraction of economic growth, increased property values, etc.
 - Kent asked the group to begin to think about their role with the expansion efforts in respect to their departments.
 - Kent stated that Senator Boxer is aware of the Operation Phoenix model and she is supportive. Kent stated that a letter is going out to Derrick Brent in the Senator's Office in support of the Operation Phoenix application for federal grants to support the county and city efforts.
 - Kent stated that in 2005 in the zip code of 92404:
 - Over 2,000 child abuse reports
 - Over 400 pregnant teens
 - 80 babies exposed to substance abuse
 - 90 Probationers in the area
 - Kent stated he started the morning at City Hall where they getting ready to roll out on a Sweep of an apartment complex on Meridian, which is located on the borders of San Bernardino and Rialto. In that particular area there have been homicides in the last five weeks.
 - Kent directed everyone's attention to his/her agenda packet which includes: the map; Operation Phoenix Citywide Model; Operation Phoenix Expansion Model Organizational Chart; and Operation Phoenix Team Operational Protocol.
 - The five areas of expansion were presented.
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They include the area adjacent to the existing Operation Phoenix area, the area around Rialto High School, Sepulveda and 40th Streets, California Gardens, and the Arden-Guthrie area.

- Supervisor Gonzales stated on the agenda for the County budget last week she proposed: an allotted amount for; formation and operation of a new Anti-Gang Task Force Unit through the Sheriff's Department and she will instruct that group to work with San Bernardino City Police Department; and ordering custom fit bullet proof vests for Code Enforcement Officers since they have and come close to areas of meth. labs and gang activity.
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- It was stated that the Operation Phoenix office space on Waterman lease runs out and they will move to the Church of the Nazarene on 16th and 20th Streets in September
- **. Supervisor Gonzales asked Briana Lane to assist her with putting something together to get some federal funding through faith-based and DOJ (Department of Justice). She also stated she would contact Congressman Lewis as he is a supporter of the faith based community.**
- Kent stated the Operation Phoenix protocol in the agenda packets is the commitments that were made last May. **. Kent went around the table and asked for comments and commitments from each department and recorded the responses. Kent agreed to send the group a document with each department's commitment towards the project and ask for any changes before it can go for a vote at the July Policy Council meeting.**
- Mayor Morris stated the City Manager just called him last night and stated the sales tax generated due to Measure Z is substantially down over the last 45 days mainly due to a downturn in auto sales. Glen reported that the City Counsel is very anxious about spending additional funding for Operation Phoenix. He mentioned that it might not be wise to expand to all five areas unless more sales tax is generated.
- Kent announced the Operation Phoenix City of San Bernardino Non-Profit Summit on September 27th 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the National Orange Show, Valencia Room. Breakfast and lunch will be served. Agencies that are non-profit, and faith based up to 150 will be invited to the event.
Supervisor Gonzales asks to be included.
- Supervisor Gonzales distributed to everyone a pedometer and asked everyone to count his/her steps to physical health and healthy communities. She asked everyone to work towards 10,000 steps a day as a goal.

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- Richard asked are there linkages for the residents to parenting classes, pregnancy counseling, etc.? **Kent stated he has a listing of contract agencies that serve families through DBH, First 5 San Bernardino, and DCS.**
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Key points:
Other

The following highlights were given:

- Mayor Morris mentioned he was grateful about the partnership between Children's Fund Board and the local colleges. Children's Fund Board has agreed to offer eight scholarships to Junior College for foster youth aging out of the system. Children's Fund Board has also agreed to offer four scholarships to Cal State University San Bernardino for foster youth aging out of the system.
- Greg Zerovnik stated he doesn't know how much the County Library system can contribute to Operation Phoenix, but that they offer a Foster Library Card Program where the foster children and their caregivers are not charged any overdue fines. He stated the application is on the website. Greg also stated they could offer meeting spaces for service providers to hold meetings in the evenings and Saturday. **Kent asked Greg to give a more detailed presentation at the July Policy Council meeting.**
- Stephen mentioned that he recently went to Sacramento to testify on some legislation that applies to ILP (Independent Living Program) for foster youth living with non-relative caregivers with Kathy Watkins. He stated it was a very rewarding experience as several legislators came up to him and were very interested in what is going on in this county. Stephen stated he handed out some TAY flyers and would like to see more foster youth go to the capitol.

Key points:
Public
Comment

There was no public comment.

Next Meeting

Next scheduled meeting is July 25, 2007 at noon, Citrus Room, 5th Floor, County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., San Bernardino.
Note will go dark for August.